

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 10 are now presented for examination. Claims 1, 8 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 2-7 and 9 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claim 7 is the only independent claim.

The specification and the abstract have been carefully reviewed and amended as to matters of form. The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error in paragraph 0002.

Claims 2-4, 7 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication 2003/0122472 (Kawase). Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kawase.

Independent Claim 7 as currently amended is directed to image display apparatus in which a display has an electron emission unit and an anode electrode to which an electric potential for accelerating an electron emitted by the electron emission unit is applied. An anode-electrode terminal feeds the electric potential to the display apparatus and a first electrode sits on the periphery of the anode-electrode terminal. An anode-terminal cover that contacts the display and covers the anode-electrode terminal has an insulating body. A conductive portion annularly positioned on the insulating body contacts the first electrode. A predetermined potential is applied to the first electrode and the conductive portion.

In Applicant's view, Kawase discloses a display device equipped with a display unit for displaying information that has a terminal connected to the display unit and is adapted to supply a predetermined potential to an electrode in the display unit. An insulator is provided outside the display unit and adapted to cover the terminal and a support structure supports the display unit. The display device is characterized in that (1) The support structure is equipped with a retaining portion for retaining the insulator independently of the support of the display unit. (2) The display device is equipped with a guide for guiding the conductor cable along the conductor cable between the terminal and the power source. (3) At least a part of the drive circuit is arranged such that the orthogonal projection thereof on a predetermined surface of the display unit overlaps the terminal. In the portion where the drive circuit and the terminal overlap each other, a conductor to which a reference potential lower than the predetermined potential is imparted is provided between the drive circuit and the terminal such that it is insulated from each of the drive circuit and the terminal.

According to the invention defined in Claim 7 as currently amended, a first electrode sits on the periphery of an anode-electrode terminal that feeds electric potential to display apparatus. A conductive portion that is annularly positioned on the insulating body of the anode-terminal cover and contacts the display contacts the first electrode. A predetermined potential is applied to the first electrode and the conductive portion. Advantageously, the configuration of the first electrode and the conductive portion allows control of the voltage gradient outside the anode-terminal cover so that dust adhesion and water absorption due to the potential gradient produced outside the anode-terminal cover can be prevented.

Kawase may provide an anode terminal cover that covers a display anode electrode terminal. As disclosed at least at paragraph 0134 of Kawase with respect to Fig. 7, “An insulating cap conductor cover 401 is a conductive rubber member formed in conformity with the outer configuration of the insulating cap 203, and serves as a conductor between the insulating cap 203 and the electric circuits including the scanning driver circuit 110.” As clearly shown in Fig. 7 of Kawase, the insulating cap conductive cover 401 covers the entire outside of the insulating cap 203 and is not a conductive portion annularly positioned on the insulating body that contacts a first electrode sitting on the periphery of the anode-electrode terminal as in Claim 7. Accordingly, it is not seen that Kawase in any manner teaches or suggests the features of Claim 7. It is therefore believed that Claim 7 as currently amended is completely distinguished from Kawase and is allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claim 7, is patentably defined over the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

Dependent claims 2-6 and 9 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent claim 7. Individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant further submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's Attorney, Daniel S. Glueck, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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